

## State Market Beef Nomination Deadline Approaching

The 2025 state livestock nomination season is upon us! Market beef nominations are due by May 1, 2025. This includes market steers and market heifers. The deadline is a postmark and online submission deadline, but families need to plan ahead and get them submitted as soon as possible. We have transitioned to an online nomination system, so families will need to order DNA envelopes in advance, as well as complete their YQCA certification and the Declaration Form before submitting their nominations. The nomination fee is now paid through purchasing DNA envelopes, which means no payment will be included when the completed and signed DNA envelopes are postmarked. The deadline to order official DNA envelopes is April 20.

Additionally, no paper forms will be mailed. Families will only mail in their completed DNA samples and a copy of the receipt from their online nomination entry submissions (list of animals/tag numbers). Extension agents and FFA advisors will approve nominations online. Nomination information for all species may be found on the KSU Youth Livestock Program website, including the link to the online system: <https://www.asi.k-state.edu/extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/>. The website includes an overview of the process, as well as the resources available. No paper forms or old DNA envelopes will be accepted. Families should use the checklist, make sure the DNA envelopes are signed by all exhibitors within the family, as well as a parent, and cross reference the information submitted online with the DNA envelopes (most importantly the Tag ID). For more information, contact Lexie Hayes via email at [adhayes@ksu.edu](mailto:adhayes@ksu.edu) or 785-532-1264.

# SUN | MAY 11 | 2025



PRE-ENTER: \$25 | DAY OF SHOW: \$35 | SHOWMANSHIP: \$10

### SHEEP

Breeding Ewes then Market Lambs (shown by weight and breed). Check in from 7-9 AM. Show starts at 10 AM with ewes.

#### JUDGE:

LEAH AMSTUTZ, OH

### GOATS

Breeding Does then Market Goats (shown by weight). Check in from 7 AM - NOON. Show starts at 1 PM (or immediately following sheep).

#### JUDGE:

LEAH AMSTUTZ, OH

### SWINE

Gilts and Barrows will be combined to form a prospect show. Check in from 7-9 AM. Show starts at 10 AM with showmanship.

#### JUDGE:

LANE EGGER, NE

Generators are recommended | Showing off trailer strongly encouraged (limited pens @ \$10/pen) | Health papers required for out of state animals | Registration papers required for swine to show as a purebred

RILEY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
1726 AVERY AVENUE, MANHATTAN, KS 66502

#### QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Payton Dahmer (Sheep & Goats)  
(417) 448-4934  
[dahmerp@ksu.edu](mailto:dahmerp@ksu.edu)

Abi Lillard (Swine)  
(785) 280-0188  
[alillard@ksu.edu](mailto:alillard@ksu.edu)

James DeRouchey (Swine)  
(785) 456-5330  
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### Department of Animal Sciences and Industry

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## 2025 Wildcat Showdown

This year's Wildcat Showdown, a sheep, goat and swine show that will be hosted on Sunday, May 11 at the Riley County Fairgrounds. Pre-entry is \$25, and the day of show \$35. Showmanship is \$10. Generators are recommended. Showing off trailer is strongly encouraged as there will be limited number of pens at \$10/pen. Health papers are required. For more information or to register visit <https://showman.app/shows#/the-wildcat-showdown-857f/> or contact Payton Dahmer ([dahmerp@ksu.edu](mailto:dahmerp@ksu.edu) or 417-448-4934).

## Upcoming Events

May 11, 2025  
Wildcat Showdown

June 2-4, 2025  
Champions Livestock Judging - Camp 1

June 3-5, 2025  
HACCP Workshop- Manhattan, KS

June 9-11, 2025  
Champions Livestock Judging - Camp 2

June 11-14, 2025  
KASLA

July 11-12, 2025  
Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic

September 25, 2025  
Beef Stocker Field Day

# Upcoming Events

## Spring Shows and Local Youth Livestock Opportunities

Any county that has a youth livestock educational opportunity open to kids outside of the county is invited to share that information with Lexie Hayes ([adhayes@ksu.edu](mailto:adhayes@ksu.edu)). This includes spring shows, showmanship clinics, skillathons, field days, other related events, etc. These opportunities will be included on the youth livestock website, under the events tab. Information on the site will be updated as approved 2025 opportunities are received directly from extension units. Events, activities, and shows must be submitted by local KSRE professionals to be included on the website.

## HACCP Workshop Hosted in June

Implementing Your Company's HACCP Plan will be June 2-4, 2025, in Manhattan, Kansas. This workshop uses curriculum recognized by the International HACCP Alliance for meat and poultry processors. The registration fee is \$450 per person and is available online at <http://bit.ly/HACCPCourse>. For more information, contact Dr. Liz Boyle [lboyle@ksu.edu](mailto:lboyle@ksu.edu) or 785-532-1247.

## 2025 Champions Livestock Judging Camps

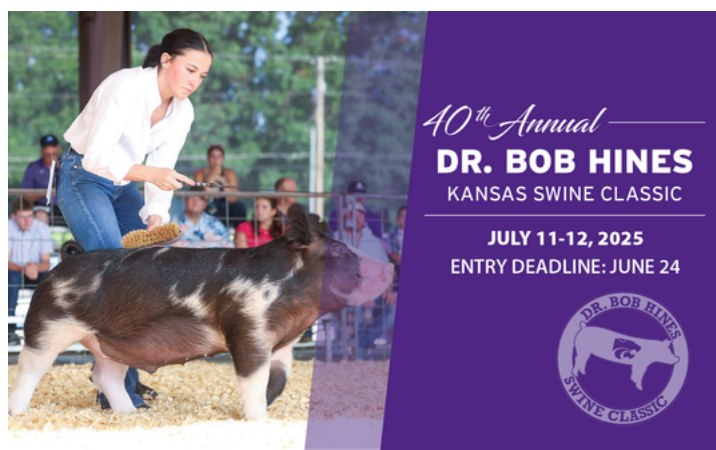


Save the date for this year's Champion Livestock Judging Camps hosted on June 2-4 and June 9-11 in Manhattan, Kansas. This camp is designed for 4-H and FFA members (ages 14-18), who are seriously interested in enhancing their livestock judging and oral communication skills. Both sessions will include one-on-one coaching with the current coaches and students on the K-State Livestock Judging Team with a heavy focus on reasons! Registration is \$350 and opened April 1. This is filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, visit [asi.k-state.edu/judgingcamps](http://asi.k-state.edu/judgingcamps) or contact Payton Dahmer, [dahmerp@ksu.edu](mailto:dahmerp@ksu.edu) or 417-448-4934 or Rachael Stadel, [rmkstadel@ksu.edu](mailto:rmkstadel@ksu.edu) or 785-532-2996.

## YQCA Certification Information

All youth who plan to exhibit at the Kansas State Fair Grand Drive and/or KJLS should complete the training at their earliest convenience. It is required for all exhibitors at both state shows. This is an annual training. Those submitting state livestock nominations must have completed their certification at the time of nomination and submit a copy of their completion certificate. Instructor-led trainings are \$3/child, while the web-based course is \$12/child. Youth who are 12 or 15-years-old by January 1 are eligible to test out. Only those two ages have the option to test out, as it is the first year of each age division. The YQCA staff has created resources to help guide families in registering for training and printing their completion certificates. They include Help Docs, as well as videos, which are posted on the YQCA Program website and linked to the KSU Youth Livestock Program page. Those completing the web-based course are encouraged to use Google Chrome to reduce the potential of technical difficulties. For more information about YQCA certification, please visit [www.yqcaprogram.org](http://www.yqcaprogram.org), contact your local extension office or Lexie Hayes at [adhayes@ksu.edu](mailto:adhayes@ksu.edu).

## Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The 2025 Dr. Bob Hines Kansas Swine Classic is scheduled for July 11-12 at the Riley County Fairgrounds in CiCo Park in Manhattan. This two-day event includes an educational swine skillathon, photography contest, showmanship, and a prospect and market hog show. It is open to Kansas youth ages 7-18 as of January 1, 2025. Entries must be submitted online by 5 pm on June 24, with payment postmarked the same day. The flyer is available [www.asi.ksu.edu/swineclassic](http://www.asi.ksu.edu/swineclassic). Watch the website and youth livestock Facebook page for special events and activities for this year's show as we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! For more information, contact Joel DeRouchey (785-532-2280 or [jderouch@ksu.edu](mailto:jderouch@ksu.edu)) or Lexie Hayes (785-532-1264 or [adhayes@ksu.edu](mailto:adhayes@ksu.edu)).

## Management Minute

### *“Hiring the Right Person”*

Justin Waggoner  
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist  
Garden City, KS

Whether you are a small business with just a few employees or a larger enterprise with several employees, hiring the right person for a position is essential. Making a good hiring decision can inspire others and improve the operations productivity. The unfortunate truth is that the number of qualified applicants for most skilled position isn't large, "Good people are truly hard to find". So what can you, as a potential employer, do to attract and hire the best person for a position? There are many thoughts on this topic. However, most experts agree that knowing what you are looking for and clearly stating the roles and responsibilities of the position is a great place to start. Applicants want/need to know what the expectations of the position are. Another point of consensus on the topic is to involve others in the hiring process. Allowing the candidates to interact with others in the organization through tours, or an informal dinner, can be great way to know whether a person is a good fit. An informal setting often allows an employer to gather more information about the applicant than the traditional interview questions can allow. People spend a great deal of time at work, thus co-workers, colleagues, and the culture of the organization is important to both parties. Additionally, different people have different perspectives on the applicants, and usually there is some degree of consensus. Lastly, be prepared to move quickly with a competitive offer. The best people will usually have multiple opportunities.

## Feedlot Facts

### *“How Much Water Does a Cow Need?”*

Justin Waggoner  
KSU Extension Beef Cattle Specialist  
Garden City, KS

Most cattle producers fully understand the importance of water. After all, providing an adequate supply of clean, fresh water is the cornerstone of animal husbandry and there are very few things that compare to the feeling of finding thirsty cows grouped around a dry tank on a hot day. Water is important, and in situations where the water supply is limited or we are forced to haul water, one of the first questions we find ourselves asking is, "How much water do those cows need?". The old rule of thumb is that cattle should consume 1-2 gallons of water per 100 lbs of bodyweight. Accurately determining the amount of water cows will voluntarily consume is difficult and is influenced by several factors (ambient temperature, moisture and salt content of the diet, body weight, lactation, etc.). Water consumption increases linearly as ambient temperature increases above 40° Fahrenheit such that cows require an additional gallon of water for every 10 degree increase in temperature. Additionally, lactation also directly increases the amount of water required by beef cows. The table below summarizes the daily water requirements of beef cows of several different body weights, milk production levels, and ambient temperatures.

		Average Daily Temperature, °F		
		40	65	90
Cow weight, lb	Milk Production, lb/d	Gallons of Water/day		
1100	0	8.2	10.8	13.4
	10	10.5	13.1	15.7
	25	12.8	15.4	17.9
1300	0	9.2	11.8	14.3
	10	12.2	14.8	17.4
	25	14.5	17.1	19.7
1500	0	10.2	12.7	15.3
	10	14.0	16.5	19.1
	25	16.3	18.8	21.4

The daily water requirements of beef cows represented are estimates and water consumption varies greatly during the summer months when temperatures exceed 90° Fahrenheit. Therefore, these recommendations should be regarded as minimum guidelines.

For more information, contact Justin Waggoner at [jwaggon@ksu.edu](mailto:jwaggon@ksu.edu)

# KSU Cow-Calf Checklist - April 2025

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## Management Considerations for June 2025

*By Jason M. Warner, Ph.D., Extension Cow-Calf Specialist*

### Cow Herd Management

- For spring-calving cowherds:
  - Monitor BCS relative to feed/forage availability.
  - Formulate your plan if you anticipate early-weaning or supplementing on grass.
  - Schedule early pregnancy checking activities with your vet if not already done.
- For late-summer and early-fall calving cowherds:
  - Ensure mature cows are  $\geq 5.0$  and 2-4 year old females are  $\geq 6.0$  at calving.
  - Review your calving health protocols as needed.
- For free-choice salt and mineral programs:
  - Record date and amount of product offered, calculate herd or pasture consumption.
  - Adjust how you are offering product to cattle if they over- or under-consume.
  - If consumption is 2X the target intake, then cost will be too!
  - Properly store bags and pallets to avoid damage and product loss.
- For bulls at the start of the breeding season:
  - Watch for injury so you can intervene and treat bulls promptly if needed.
  - Ensure they are aggressively covering cows.
  - Monitor BCS, particularly on young bulls.
  - If pulling bulls from cows to manage the length of the breeding season, schedule those dates and have them on the calendar in advance.

### Calf Management

- If considering creep feeding calves, make sure you understand what your objective is by doing so and calculate the value of gain relative to cost of gain.
- Monitor calves for summer respiratory illness.
- Schedule any pre-weaning vaccination or processing activities.

### General Management

- Visit KSUBeef.org (<https://www.ksu.edu/extension/beef/>) for info and events!
- Evaluate early-summer grass growth and adjust your grazing plan as needed.
- Make concerted efforts to control invasive species in pastures.
- Take inventory of remaining forages and feedstuffs carried over to this fall.
- Use the Management Minder tool on KSUBeef.org to plan key management activities for your cowherd for the rest of the year  
<https://cowweb.exnet.iastate.edu/CowWeb/faces/Index.jsp>.
- Employ multiple strategies and chemistries for controlling flies and insects.
- With high feeder calf prices, consider price risk management tools.
- Make and evaluate important production calculations (always a good time for this):
  - Calving distribution (% 1<sup>st</sup> cycle, % 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle, % 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle)
  - Calving interval
  - % calf crop (# calves weaned/# cows exposed for breeding).





# What's New for Cattle Producers

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## **Effects of Late-Summer Prescribed Fire on Botanical Composition, Soil Cover, and Forage Production in Caucasian Bluestem-Infested Rangeland in the Kansas Smoky Hills: Final Report**

Our objective was to examine the effects of late-summer prescribed fire on the frequency and basal cover of Caucasian bluestem (*Bothriochloa bladhii*), soil cover, botanical composition, and forage production in the Kansas Smoky Hills. Eighteen one-acre plots located in a Caucasian bluestem-infested pasture in Ellsworth County, Kansas, were randomly assigned to one of three treatments: no burn (control), one burn (August 14, 2019), and two burns (August 14, 2019, and August 11, 2021). Pre-treatment data were collected in 2019 (year one); measurements of soil cover, botanical composition, forage production, and Caucasian bluestem frequency and basal cover were taken each year thereafter.

**The Bottom Line:** These data suggest that regular application of late-summer prescribed fire may reduce Caucasian bluestem basal cover while having no negative consequences on native species and improving overall grass-species richness. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day report at [KSUbeef.org](https://ksu.beef.org). (This study conducted by Helen Patricia Giefer, Keith R. Harmon, M. P. Ramirez, A. J. Tajchman, Z. M. Duncan, J. Lemmon, and K. C. Olson).

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**Effects of Omega-3 Fatty Acid Supplementation on Growth and Development of Bull Calves** The objective was to evaluate the supplementation of omega-3-based fatty acids to developing, post-weaned beef bull calves on growth and reproductive development. This study was conducted over a 64-day period involving purebred Angus, Hereford, and Simmental bull calves (n = 42) born in spring 2023. The bulls were randomly assigned to three groups that included a control that did not receive the omega-3 supplement (n = 14) and calves that received 0.5 lb (n = 14) or 1.0 lb (n = 18) of the omega-3 supplement. The bulls were fed according to a ration formulated using the Growing Bull module of the Excel-based Beef Ration and Nutrition Decision Software (BRaNDS) formulation program.

**Results:** No differences (P = 0.98) in initial body weight (BW) were observed among the treatment groups. Final BW for the 1.0 lb supplement group showed a trend toward higher values compared to the control; however, this was not significant (P = 0.77). Omega-3 supplementation increased (P = 0.04) average daily gain (ADG) in the 1.0 lb group with ADG values of 4.25 lb/day compared to 3.60 lb/day in the control group. The dry matter intake was consistent across groups (P = 0.64), indicating no effect of omega-3 supplementation on feed intake. However, the probability of passing the breeding soundness exam (BSE) was lower (P = 0.0097) in the 1.0 lb group, suggesting a negative impact on reproductive soundness.

**The Bottom Line:** Omega-3 supplementation at 1.0 lb/day improved weight gain but had negative effects on reproductive soundness, lowering BSE pass rates. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day report at [KSUbeef.org](https://ksu.beef.org). (This study conducted by Brandon J. Fraser, Allen G. Schwartz, and Jason M. Warner).

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**The Effects of Aging Time on the Eating Quality of Gluteus Medius Steaks** The objective of this study was to determine the palatability characteristics and color traits of gluteus medius steaks aged 14, 28, 35, 42, 49, 56, 63, and 70 days. Beef top sirloin butt subprimals were assigned to one of eight aging periods. Once aged, the gluteus medius was fabricated into 1-in. steaks. Steaks were used for consumer panels, Warner-Bratzler Shear Force (WBSF), or raw/cooked color evaluation. Color data were collected on raw steaks. Steaks were cooked to 160°F and internal color data measured. Samples were cooled for 24 hours before WBSF determination. Steaks were cooked to 160°F for consumer ratings on overall juiciness, tenderness, and flavor liking.

**Results:** Consumers found no difference (P > 0.05) among aging treatments for juiciness, tenderness, flavor, or overall liking. Although there were no differences (P > 0.05) in the percentage of samples rated acceptable for juiciness, tenderness, flavor, or overall liking, all treatments had, at minimum, 83% of samples rated overall acceptable by the consumers. Additionally, there were no differences (P > 0.05) in cooking loss, cooked L\* (lightness), a\* (redness), b\* (yellowness), deoxymyoglobin (DMb), oxymyoglobin (OMb), metmyoglobin (MMb), chroma, or hue angle among all treatments. Steaks that were aged for 14 days had a higher (P < 0.05) WBSF value than all other treatments. Steaks aged for 63 and 70 days were more tender (P < 0.05) than samples aged for 42 days or less. Although there were differences found in raw color, there were few evident trends. Steaks that were aged for 14, 49, and 56 days were redder (P < 0.05) than those aged for 63 and 70 days. Steaks aged for 14 days were darker (P < 0.05) than steaks aged for 49 days or more. Although there were no differences (P > 0.05) in raw calculated MMb, there were differences (P < 0.05) in DMb, with values being higher in steaks aged 14, 35, 49, and 56 days than at 63 and 70 days. Furthermore, OMb was higher (P < 0.05) at 63 days than at 14, 35, 42, and 56 days.

**The Bottom Line:** These results indicate that extending the aging time of gluteus medius steaks has limited impact on the palatability and color characteristics of the steaks. More information is available on this experiment and others in the KSU Cattlemen's Day report at [KSUbeef.org](https://ksu.beef.org). (This study conducted by Chesney A. Effling, Lauren M. Frink, Stephanie L. Witberler, Mason J. Prester, Jerrad F. Legako, Dale R. Woerner, Rhonda K. Miller, Chris R. Kerth, Mahesh N. Nair, Jessica M. Lancaster, and Travis G. O'Quinn).

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# What's New for Swine Producers

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## **Evaluation of Dietary Acidifiers in Low Acid-Binding Capacity-4 (ABC-4) Diets on Nursery Pig Performance and Fecal Dry Matter**

**Matter**- A total of 300 pigs (DNA 241 × 600, initially 13.2 lb) were used to evaluate dietary acidifiers in low acid-binding capacity-4 (ABC-4) diets on nursery pig performance and fecal dry matter (DM). At weaning, pigs were randomly allotted to one of six dietary treatments. There were five pigs per pen and 10 replications per treatment. Pigs were fed experimental diets in two phases with phase 1 fed from d 0 to 10 post-weaning followed by phase 2 from d 10 to 24. Four diets were formulated to an ABC-4 level of 200 and 250 meq/kg in phases 1 and 2, respectively, by utilizing four different dietary acidifiers. Dietary acidifiers included 0.36% fumaric acid (Primary Products Ingredients Americas LLC, Decatur, IL), 0.87% Activate DA (Novus, St. Charles, MO), 1.01% KEM-GEST (Kemin, Des Moines, IA), and 0.85% ACID-AID (Alltech, Nicholasville, KY). Diet 5 did not include any dietary acidifiers, which increased the ABC-4 level by 40 meq/kg in both phases. All diets contained 110 ppm of Zn provided by the trace mineral premix. Diet 6 was the same formulation as diet 5, but with the addition of 3,000 and 2,000 ppm of Zn from ZnO in phases 1 and 2, respectively. The addition of ZnO further increased the ABC-4 level of the diet by 87 and 54 meq/kg in phases 1 and 2, respectively. Following phase 2 experimental diets, all pigs were fed a common corn-soybean meal-based diet until the completion of the study on d 38 post-weaning. There were no differences ( $P > 0.05$ ) observed between pigs fed the four dietary acidifiers for the duration of the study. In phase 2 (d 10 to 24), the experimental period (d 0 to 24), and overall (d 0 to 38), pigs fed the low ABC-4 diets containing acidifiers had improved ( $P \leq 0.020$ ) F/G compared to pigs fed the higher ABC-4 diet (without acidifiers). In the experimental period (d 0 to 24), pigs fed diets containing ZnO tended to have improved ( $P = 0.052$ ) F/G compared to pigs fed diets without added ZnO. In conclusion, utilizing dietary acidifiers to achieve a low ABC-4 level improved feed efficiency. The specific dietary acidifier utilized to target a low ABC-4 level did not affect the growth response in nursery pigs. However, most dietary acidifiers were included above their supplier-recommended inclusion rates to achieve the targeted low ABC-4 level and removing them only increased the ABC-4 by 40 meq/kg. Therefore, other aspects of diet formulation such as low ABC-4 specialty protein or lactose sources, low Ca levels, a combination of acidifiers, or other methods must be considered when targeting low ABC-4 levels. More information is available on this experiment and others like this at [KSUSwine.org](http://KSUSwine.org). (This study conducted by Ethan B. Stas, Mike D. Tokach, Joel M. DeRouchey, Jason C. Woodworth, Robert D. Goodband, and Jordan T. Gebhardt).

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## **Effects of Butyrate-Based Feed Additives on Nursery Pig Performance, Fecal Consistency, Blood Criteria, and Short Chain Fatty Acid Production**

A total of 300 pigs (241 × 600, DNA, initially 12.2 lb) were used to evaluate the effects of butyrate-based feed additives on nursery pig performance, fecal consistency, blood criteria, and short chain fatty acid (SCFA) concentration in the duodenum, jejunum, ileum, and cecum. At weaning, pigs were allotted to one of six dietary treatments based on initial body weight. There were five pigs per pen and 10 replications per treatment. Dietary treatments were arranged in a one-way treatment structure consisting of a negative control, a positive control, and four additional diets containing various butyrate-based feed additives. The negative control was a standard corn-soybean meal-based diet with no antibiotics or pharmacological levels of Zn or Cu. The positive control contained 3,000 and 2,000 ppm of Zn from ZnO in phase 1 and 2 respectively, and 250 ppm of Cu from CuSO<sub>4</sub> in phase 3. The positive control also contained 55 ppm of carbadox (Mecadox; Phibro Animal Health Corp., Teaneck, NJ) across all three phases. The four butyrate-based feed additives were added at 0.1% to the negative control diet and consisted of encapsulated butyrate, monobutylin, mono + tributyrin, and tributyrin (Eastman Chemical, Kingsport, TN). The mono + tributyrin additive contained 71.5% monobutylin and 28.5% tributyrin. Pigs were fed phase 1 diets for 10 d (d 0 to 10), phase 2 diets for 14 days (d 10 to 24), and phase 3 diets for 14 d (d 24 to 38). Overall (d 0 to 38), pigs fed the positive control had increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) ADG and ADFI compared to the other treatments. In addition, pigs fed mono + tributyrin had improved ( $P < 0.05$ ) F/G compared to pigs fed monobutylin with other treatments intermediate. There was a treatment × day interaction ( $P = 0.042$ ) for fecal DM where on d 5, there were no differences in fecal DM between treatments ( $P > 0.10$ ); however, on d 10, pigs fed the positive control had increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) fecal DM compared to all other treatments. On d 38, pigs fed encapsulated butyrate had increased ( $P < 0.05$ ) haptoglobin concentration compared to pigs fed the positive control with the other treatments intermediate. There was a treatment × day interaction observed ( $P < 0.001$ ) for vitamin E where pigs fed tributyrin had higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) vitamin E concentration on d 10 compared to pigs fed the negative control, the positive control, and monobutylin with the other treatments intermediate, and no differences observed on d 38. Pigs fed mono + tributyrin had higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) butyrate concentrations in the cecum compared to pigs fed the negative control with all other treatments intermediate. In summary, nursery pigs fed pharmacological levels of Zn and Cu along with carbadox improved growth performance as expected. Various butyrate-based feed additives had similar effects on nursery pig performance and SCFA in the small intestine. However, mono + tributyrin was associated with higher butyrate levels in cecum, potentially benefiting the epithelial cells. More information is available on this experiment and others like this at [KSUSwine.org](http://KSUSwine.org). (This study conducted by Ethan B. Stas, Ying Chen, Ross Wolfenden, Jamil E. G. Faccin, Jason C. Woodworth, Mike D. Tokach, Joel M. DeRouchey, Robert D. Goodband, and Jordan T. Gebhardt).

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# ASI Faculty Highlight

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**Karol Fike (karol@ksu.edu or 785-532-1104)**

## Teaching Professor

Karol Fike was raised on a diversified crop and livestock (beef cattle and sheep) operation in eastern Iowa. She completed her B.S. degree in Animal Sciences at Iowa State University in 1991. Karol continued her education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, earning her M.S. and Ph.D. studying reproductive physiology in beef cattle. Karol has a passion for teaching and working with students. She taught courses in Anatomy and Physiology, Human Nutrition, and Biology at Western Iowa Tech Community College. She spent four years on faculty at Ohio State University teaching Introductory Animal Sciences, Animal Products, advising students, and coordinating the undergraduate internship program. Here at K-State, Dr. Fike advises students, teaches Principles of Animal Science (ASI 102), Physiology of Reproduction in Farm Animals (ASI 710), and coordinates the departmental internship program (ASI 599) and Feedlot Boot Camp program. Research interests include beef cattle reproductive physiology and management. Karol and her husband Gary have three children, Jackson, Marshall, and Grace. They have a few cows on their acreage near Westmoreland, Kansas.



**Nicholas Wege Dias (diasnw@ksu.edu or 785-532-1222)**

## Assistant Professor - Beef Cattle Reproduction & Biotechnology

Dr. Dias is originally from Brazil, where he acquired his degree on Veterinary Medicine from the State University of Sao Paulo in 2016. During his veterinary training, Dr. Dias had the opportunity to closely interact with beef cow calf producers and understand the challenges that cow-calf operations face. After graduating from vet school, Dr. Dias joined Virginia Tech for his graduate program, where he acquired his master's degree in 2018 and doctorate in 2022.

During his graduate life, he was involved in several research projects aimed to improve fertility of beef cattle. Dr. Dias has a particular interest in studying factors that ultimately influence fertility of cows and heifers that are enrolled in estrous synchronization protocols. With this, Dr. Dias hopes to create cheap and applicable management strategies that help overcome fertility issues.

Currently, Dr. Dias' research interests are to explore the role of the vaginal microbiome of cows on reproductive efficiency, as well as to develop smart-farm technologies that will facilitate farm management and decision making.

Dr. Dias' and his wife, Gabriela, live in Manhattan. He enjoys a good BBQ and watching soccer.

*We need your input! If you have any suggestions or comments on  
**News from KSU Animal Sciences**, please let us know by email to  
katiesmith@ksu.edu*

# Jobs Available - Now Hiring

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**Communication & Marketing Specialist (Job #519403)**- This is a full-time, unclassified, term position. This person is part of a dynamic team within the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry that is responsible for coordinating communications and marketing activities for recruitment, youth activities, extension, departmental communications and events and ASI personnel. For more information or to apply, go to [careers.k-state.edu/jobs/communications-marketing-specialist-manhattan-kansas-united-states-3b57273f-12e8-49d7-bffb-ae6962023002](https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/communications-marketing-specialist-manhattan-kansas-united-states-3b57273f-12e8-49d7-bffb-ae6962023002)

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**Farm Manager/Purebred Beef Unit Manager (Job #519516)**- This is a full-time, unclassified, term position. This position provides daily leadership and management to the Purebred Beef Unit and all associated operations of the unit for the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI). The unit consists of an approximately 250 head spring and fall-calving beef cow-calf seedstock herd operating on 4,000 acres of native rangeland plus on-campus facilities. For more information or to apply, visit <https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/search?query=519516>.

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**Office Specialist III in ASI Business Office (Job #519171)**- This is a full-time, unclassified, term position. This position will provide specialized administrative support relevant to academic, fiscal, purchasing, employment or payroll administration needs within the College of Agriculture/K-State Research & Extension's Business Services Unit. Responsible for managing the department(s) office and serves as a first point of contact and resource for faculty and staff. This person will play an important role to help support both human resources and accounting related functions. The incumbent should be self-motivated and look forward to handling a wide variety of duties. This role will manage the office and ensure efficient day-to-day functioning and is relied upon to provide support for projects. For more information or to apply, visit <https://careers.k-state.edu/jobs/search?page=1&query=519171>

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